

MR. WHITZEL ON THE RESURRECTION.

In publishing Mr. Frank R. Whitzel's suggestion entitled "Possible Origin of the Resurrection Story," I wish to say that he certainly does not underrate the significance of the part which Joseph of Arimathæa plays in the disposal of the body of Christ, and he points out that this mysterious figure disappears suddenly and definitely from view. It is improbable, however, that this rich man should have followed a clear plan with a purpose that indicates a deep foresight of a great movement such as actually took place in the origin of Christianity and the foundation of the church. But there is another possibility, suggested some years ago by Dr. Paul Schwartzkopff of Wernigerode, who asked himself the question, what can have been the motive of Joseph of Arimathæa in demanding the body of Jesus from Pontius Pilate? Joseph is regarded in tradition as a disciple, but it is neither probable that he had met Jesus before the crucifixion nor that he joined the Nazarenes afterwards. We would most certainly have been informed of it in the Acts of the Apostles. It is probable therefore that he was an outsider, and his motive for procuring the body of Jesus was not because he was a believer. Schwartzkopff calls attention to the superstition prevalent in ancient times, verifying it by quotations, that a violent death conveys magical powers. The nail used in crucifixion, the wood of the cross, the ropes with which a criminal has been hanged, etc., can be used and have been used for exorcism. The bodies of men who died an unnatural death were believed to be a protection against demons or evil spirits. Such remains would therefore be thought of value to safeguard a tomb; and it would thus seem probable that Joseph had some such thought in mind, and that, being afraid lest some one else might steal the body, he took it out of the tomb and hid it in a secret place. The resurrection story of Mark closes with the statement that the women found the grave empty; and, following this abrupt conclusion, there is appended the concluding portion of Mark, which is drawn from another source.

P. C.

SOME RECENT FRENCH BOOKS ON THE GREAT WAR.

BY THEODORE STANTON.

The Paris press, like those of most other countries, has been teeming, during the past year, with books and pamphlets on the great war. I propose, in this article, to touch briefly on some of these publications, all of which, of course, present events from the pro-Allies standpoint.

Six mois de guerre (Paris, Hachette, 3 frs. 50), by the veteran Paris journalist, M. Gaston Jollivet, is excellently planned and covers the period extending from August, 1914, to February, 1915. It consists of the official reports issued by the French general headquarters and the chief ones given out by the German headquarters; of the principal political and diplomatic events which have happened among the warring and neutral nations; of extracts from official documents, speeches of prominent public men, articles from leading reviews and newspapers, etc.; of side-lights on the conflict, such as matters concerning hospitals, prisoners, heroic actions, etc. The book contains plans and maps, and is a real *vade-mecum* for the present war. It will probably be followed by several other similar volumes. In fact the second of the series is now being prepared.

M. Jollivet's book of facts is well supplemented and completed by *L'Alle-*